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**TO** Redmond City Council

**FROM** Mayor John Marchione and Councilmember Kim Allen

**DATE** November 18, 2008

**RE** CITY OF REDMOND 2009 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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**I RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Adopt a City of Redmond 2009 State Legislative Agenda

**II DEPARTMENT CONTACT**

Jane Christenson, Assistant to the Mayor	425 556 2107
Michelle McGehee, City Clerk	425 556 2190
Nina Rivkin, Chief Policy Advisor	425 556 2103

**III BACKGROUND**

Each year, the City Council approves a City legislative agenda which identifies the City's legislative priorities for the upcoming year and informs state legislators and elected officials of important legislative issues being advanced by the City. The City's high priority issues are identified on the first page of the draft agenda, followed by the City's priority issues.

Staff has revised the draft 2009 Legislative Agenda to reflect the recommendations of the Council from the study session on November 10. Following is a summary of the proposed revisions:

- Fund Public Health Services moved item to high priority issues
- Require Residential Fire Sprinklers modified language to limit support for State adoption of the 2009 International Residential Code to the provision requiring fire sprinklers in new construction homes
- No Unfunded State Mandates added bullet to express support for no unfunded mandates
- Annexation added language suggesting the State Legislature review and update the annexation process established in state law to advance the goals of the Growth Management Act

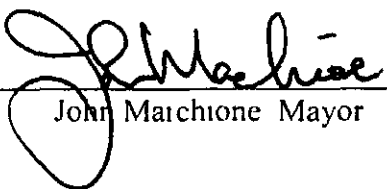
- Cascade Water Alliance changed 'Association' to 'Alliance'
- Emergency Preparedness deleted this item as it has been addressed by the Legislature
- Eastside Human Services Forum 2009 Legislative Agenda added bullet to express support for the Eastside Human Services Forum 2009 Legislative Agenda
- Public Health and Safety re-titled this category of issues to Health Human Services and Public Safety to reflect the inclusion of human services as an item
- Telecommunications merged the two bullets in the draft no substantive changes
- Elections added bullet to support amendment of state election law so that absentee ballots must be received by the date of the election and drop boxes are widely available throughout the county
- Issues to Monitor deleted this item as the administration and staff are aware of the need to monitor issues included in the draft, this staff report documents that staff will monitor these issues relating to State Finances, County Finances, Environment and Criminal Justice

The City Council is scheduled to adopt a 2009 Legislative Agenda at its meeting on November 18 2008. The Council will be meeting with the City's legislative delegation on December 9 at 4:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Nina Rivkin at 425 556 2103 or [nrivkin@redmond.gov](mailto:nrivkin@redmond.gov)

#### IV ATTACHMENT

City of Redmond 2009 State Legislative Agenda

Approved for Council Agenda

  
John Marchione Mayor

Date 11/13/08

\* On December 2, 2008, the City Council amended this agenda memo, specific to the Legislative Agenda, to include a priority under the "Growth and the Environment" section as follows: "Land Use/Gambling Support cities' ability to fully ban gambling and provide cities the ability to zone and partially ban gambling facilities."

## **CITY OF REDMOND**

# **2009 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

### *The City of Redmond appeals to the State Legislature to*

- Fully Fund New SR 520 Bridge Support full funding of SR 520 capital improvements including replacement of the SR 520 floating bridge with a six lane floating bridge including dedicated HOV lanes plus capacity for future high capacity transit
- Toll SR 520 and I-90 Bridges Support tolling of the SR 520 and I-90 bridges to begin as early as possible to help pay for, operate and maintain a new 520 bridge and improvements to the SR 520 and I-90 corridors
- Fund Slip Ramp at 148<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and 24<sup>th</sup> Street Seek funding for a slip ramp and interchange improvements at 148<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and NE 24<sup>th</sup> Street and accommodation by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for City use of right-of-way in the SR 520 corridor for storm water management facilities
- Fund Downtown City Park Seek funding for the acquisition and development of a park in downtown Redmond. Park funding will assist the City in meeting its goals for increased growth in urban centers consistent with the Growth Management Act while protecting and enhancing the quality of life for residents and businesses in this urban center
- Fund Public Health Services Fund local public health services statewide with a dedicated long-term revenue source
- Require Residential Fire Sprinklers Support State adoption of the 2009 International Residential Code provision requiring fire sprinklers in all new construction homes effective January 1, 2011. Provide authority for municipalities to enforce the new sprinkler code prior to January 1, 2011 without additional State approval

## ***The City of Redmond advances the following priority items***

### **REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION**

- *Regional Governance* Support creation of a regional governance mechanism to invest in balanced transportation improvements
- *Full Fund Commute Trip Reduction Plans* Fully fund state-mandated local Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) plans and administration as a tool to encourage local mobility. The City's aggressive land use plan requires full implementation of Commute Trip Reduction Plans as a key strategy to reduce traffic while accommodating the increased growth required under the Growth Management Act.
- *Increase funding for Growth and Transportation Efficiency Centers (GTEC)* Fund completion of initial plans for Growth and Transportation Efficiency Centers and add additional center. The City seeks funding for the final two years of the four-year approved GTEC plan for Redmond's Overlake Urban Center and additional funding to designate the Downtown Redmond Urban Center as a GTEC.

### **FISCAL**

- *No Unfunded State Mandates* The State must not impose any unfunded State mandates on local jurisdictions.
- *Sales Tax Streamlining* Preserve Sales Tax Streamlining mitigation for negatively impacted cities.
- *Video Game Industry Sales and Use Tax Revenue* The local portion of the sales and use tax from video game industry sales must be retained by local jurisdictions in the event the legislature adopts any video game industry sales and use tax exemption.
- *Homeowner Property Tax Exemption* Support legislation providing for a property tax homeowner exemption for owner-occupied principal residences to help offset the tax impact of rising property values. The assessed valuation of residential property has been growing at a significantly higher rate than non-residential properties. This has shifted the property tax burden to residential property owners, which is driving up the cost of housing.

### **GROWTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

- *Fund Sewer Improvements* Seek funding opportunities for septic to sewer conversions in urban areas. Annexation of unincorporated areas by cities will be promoted by addressing a significant barrier to annexation, which is the requirement to extend utilities to areas within municipalities.
- *Annexation* Support city annexation of remaining urban, unincorporated areas by amending the Boundary Review Board statute and corresponding annexation statute to explicitly give Boundary Review Boards authority to add up to 25 percent more land than initially included in a proposed annexation. In addition, the City suggests the State

Legislature review and updates the annexation process established in state law to provide for an efficient fair, predictable and timely annexation process that advances the goals of the Growth Management Act

- *Annexation* Support city annexation of remaining urban unincorporated areas by amending the annexation statute to increase the threshold for bringing a proposed annexation to a vote using a referendum petition by requiring support from 51 percent of area residents voting in the last general election for both the small unincorporated islands method of annexation and the interlocal agreement method of annexation
- *Climate Change/Sustainability* Support efforts to reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable practices and behaviors to address climate change so long as legislative and administrative changes are advisory for cities and not prescriptive
- *Cascade Water Alliance* Support Cascade Water Alliance (CWA) initiatives to acquire additional water sources for the provision of water to CWA members
- *Economic Development* Support the Prosperity Partnership 2009 legislative action items
- *Land Use/Gambling* Support cities ability to fully ban gambling and provides cities the ability to zone and partially ban gambling facilities

#### HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

- *Mental Health* Establish a comprehensive mental health policy for the State and fully fund mental health facilities and related infrastructure
- *Eastside Human Services Forum 2009 Legislative Agenda* Support the Eastside Human Services Forum 2009 Legislative Agenda
- *Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy* Support additional funding for the Criminal Justice Training Commission, Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy to provide adequate capacity to train new police officers

#### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- *Maintain Local Authority for Franchising* Oppose any action that reduces local authority on franchising issues such as build-out requirements consumer protection, PEG access availability local revenue needs, and right-of-way management or that would require all local jurisdictions to use the same format for franchise agreements

#### ELECTIONS

- *Absentee Ballots* Amend state election law so that absentee ballots must be received by the date of the election to be counted for the election and require drop boxes to be widely available throughout the county